



America's most important conservation and recreation program will expire in less than a year unless Congress acts. For 52 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected national parks and open spaces in every corner of the United States. But in less than 52 weeks, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested more than \$187 million to protect Maine's forests, wildlife refuges, and increase recreation access. From backcountry trails to community parks, LWCF has protected places like Acadia National Park, Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, Saddleback Mountain, Rangeley Lake State Park, and Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

Maine's \$8.2 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 76,000 jobs which generate \$2.2 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$548 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Acadia National Park

Every year, Acadia National Park has over 3.3 million visitors. It is a space that is loved by Mainers and tourists alike, and has benefited from ongoing LWCF investment of over \$24 million to date. Acadia has an adventure for everyone, from rugged hikes and climbing spots, to kayaking and boat cruises, and even a beautiful beach to relax and picnic on after a long day. In 2016, Acadia received almost \$2.5 million in LWCF. This enabled the park to purchase three properties, totaling 76 acres, that had been privately owned but was inside the legislated boundary of the park. These lands on Seal Cove Pond, Round Pond, and in the Northeast Creek watershed are important for water quality protection, wildlife habitat connectivity, and scenic preservation.



Acadia National Park, Credit: Kristi Rugg, NPS

“Thanks in part to LWCF, AMC was able to permanently protect the Katahdin Ironworks land parcel – the first conservation purchase AMC made in our Maine Woods Initiative back in 2003. This was the first step in our \$44M investment in the region and we couldn't have done it without support from the LWCF Forest Legacy program. LWCF is a critical tool in Maine's conservation toolbox and must be permanently reauthorized to spark future conservation opportunities.” – Kaitlyn Bernard, Maine Policy Manager for Appalachian Mountain Club

Katahdin Ironworks Forest Legacy Project

As part of the final stretch of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and also an integral part of both Maine's timber and recreation economies, Katahdin Ironworks is an exemplary Forest Legacy Project. Completed in 2007, over \$4 million in LWCF funding, which was complemented by additional private and public funding, was invested in this project in the 100-mile Wilderness protecting timber jobs, recreation opportunities, and preventing incompatible development in a highly sought after area. Visitors can hike one of the most rugged parts of the AT, paddle and fish in lakes and ponds, and participate in a variety of winter activities.



Katahdin Iron Works, Credit: TPL

#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in Maine!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/